

**Board of Veterans Services  
Meeting Minutes  
January 7, 2013**

A meeting of the Board of Veterans Services (BVS) was held on Monday, January 7, 2013 at the Virginia War Memorial, 621 S. Belvidere, Richmond.

**Members Present**

- John Anderson
- Richard Anderson
- Thad Jones
- Donald Kaiserman
- Don Lecky
- Sandra Love
- William Nicholas
- Al Sample
- Christopher Stolle
- Jack Hilgers, representing the Veterans Services Foundation
- Chip Moran, representing the Joint Leadership Council of Veterans Service Organizations
- Paul Galanti, Commissioner of Veterans Services

**Members Absent**

- Mamye BaCote
- L. Max Beyer
- William Haneke
- Kate Kohler
- Toddy Puller
- Bryce Reeves

**Commonwealth of Virginia Officials Present**

- Cynthia Norwood, Office of the Attorney General
- Steven Combs, Department of Veterans Services (DVS)
- Judy Reid, DVS
- Danielle Weaver, DVS
- Cathy Wilson, DVS
- Carol Rauschberg, Department of Human Resource Management

**Others Present**

- Joe Barto, TMG, Inc.
- Cynthia Young, McGuire VA Medical Center
- Anthony Kyle, McGuire VA Medical Center

## **Materials Distributed in the Agenda Packet**

- Agenda
- Proposed 2013 meeting schedule
- Proposed 2013 Action Plan
- Presentations
  - Compact with Virginia's Veterans – FY12 Report
  - Excerpts from 2013 Executive Budget Document
  - Excerpts from Budget Bill – HB1500
  - Summary of BVS EO29 Recommendations
  - Summary of JLC EO29 Recommendations
- Reports
  - Joint Leadership Council Report
  - Veterans Services Foundation Report
  - Department of Veterans Services Report

## **Call to Order**

Chairman Thad Jones called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

Chairman Jones asked Mr. Al Sample to lead the board in the Pledge of Allegiance.

The roll was called and with 11 of 18 members present a quorum was determined. Delegate Richard Anderson arrived later, bringing the number of members present to 12 including Mr. Chip Moran as the JLC representative and Mr. Jack Hilgers as the VSF representative.

## **Approval of Agenda**

Chairman Jones asked for a motion to approve the agenda as submitted.

Mr. Don Lecky made a **motion** to approve the agenda as submitted, **seconded** by Delegate Christopher Stolle. The motion carried unanimously. The agenda as adopted is included as Attachment 1.

Chairman Jones asked Mr. Steven Combs to introduce the DVS staff and guests present. Their names and organizations are recorded above.

Commissioner Galanti introduced Mr. Anthony Kyle who is a patient with the McGuire VA Medical Center's Polytrauma Rehabilitation Center. He noted that the Rehab Center is one of five in the county and is designed to provide intensive rehabilitative care to veterans and service members who experience severe injuries.

## **Approval of July 18, 2012 minutes**

Chairman Jones noted that the July 18, 2012 minutes had been distributed electronically and asked if there were any corrections.

Delegate Christopher Stolle made a **motion** to approve the July 18, 2012 minutes as submitted,

**seconded** by Mr. Jack Hilgers. The motion carried unanimously.

## **New Business**

### **Adopt 2013 meeting schedule**

Chair Jones presented the proposed 2013 Meeting Schedule:

Monday, January 7, 2013  
Wednesday, May 8, 2013  
Wednesday, July 24, 2013  
Wednesday, November 13, 2013

Chair Jones asked for a **motion** to approve the 2013 Meeting Schedule as presented. Delegate Christopher Stolle made a **motion, seconded** by Mr. Chip Moran. The 2013 Meeting Schedule was approved by **unanimous consent**. The meeting schedule as adopted is included as Attachment 2.

### **Adopt 2013 Action Plan**

Chair Jones presented the proposed 2013 Action Plan. Chair Jones pointed out that the action plan is a road map for what the BVS will do at 2013 meetings and is subject to change.

Chair Jones asked for a **motion** to approve the 2013 Action Plan as presented. Mr. Don Kaiserman made a **motion, seconded** by Mr. Chip Moran. The 2013 Action Plan was approved by **unanimous consent**.

Mr. Jack Hilgers asked for an amendment to the 2013 Action Plan. For the November 13 meeting he proposed that the requirement to “Ratify the Compact with Virginia’s Veterans” be added, and noted that this will be an annual requirement for the Board.

Chair Jones asked for a **motion** to approve the amendment to 2013 Action Plan. Mr. Don Kaiserman made a **motion, seconded** by Delegate Christopher Stolle. The amendment to the 2013 Action Plan was approved by **unanimous consent**. The 2013 Action Plan as adopted is included as Attachment 3.

Mr. Don Lecky asked if the committee meeting schedule could be forwarded to the board members. Mr. Steven Combs will work with the committee chairs to schedule committee meetings and will send a list to the board members electronically.

### **Review Executive Order 29 (EO29) and the role of the BVS**

Chair Jones reviewed Governor McDonnell’s Executive Order 29 (EO29) and the role of the BVS. He explained that the BVS has a mandate to come up with recommendations to improve services to veterans. He stated that the BVS has done an excellent job over the last couple of years in developing recommendations and that BVS members should be proud of their accomplishment. He noted that all recommendations should be proposed in a position paper and discussed before forwarding the DVS. DVS will then forward to the Governor. The Governor is in his last year of his term and Chair Jones would like to forward a long list of initiatives for his consideration.

Mr. Combs noted that the BVS has a new board member – Mr. L. Max Beyer of Roanoke – who replaced Mr. Peyton Robertson. Mr. Combs said that Mr. Beyer was looking forward to attending today’s meeting, but that he had called to explain that he was ill and would not be able to attend. Mr. Combs also noted that Mr. George Melnyk resigned in November.

## **Presentations**

### **Virginia Values Veterans (V3) program**

Mr. Steven Combs introduced Mr. Joe Barto, Founder and President of TMG. Mr. Combs explained that Virginia Values Veterans (V3) program go under way in July 2012.

Mr. Barto gave an update on the V3 program (*Attachment 4*), covering the actions taken, results achieved, and future steps. He noted that V3 conferences are scheduled for February 12, April 9 and June 12. He said that part of the June 12 conference, companies that have successfully retooled their hiring practices will be recognized.

Mr. William Nicholas asked if the \$150,000 budgeted for V3 in FY14 is sufficient. Mr. Barto voiced his opinion that was not enough, and that he hopes to find sources of additional funding. Delegate Christopher Stolle noted that the Department of Defense has spent \$1 billion on veterans employment and has approved \$3 billion to assist unemployed veterans.

Mr. Al Sample asked how small businesses could learn about V3, so that these companies can hire veterans. Mr. Barto replied that employers who attend V3 conferences learn how to hire veterans.

Commissioner Galanti invited the BVS members to attend the V3 conferences and stated that veterans make good employees.

Chairman Jones explained that Mr. Barto will be available after the meeting for any further questions.

### **Compact with Virginia’s Veterans**

Mr. Jack Hilgers called the Board members’ attention to the letter from Commissioner Galanti and attached report covering the Compact with Virginia’s Veterans. Mr. Hilgers explained that a compact is an agreement for mutual benefit between an individual group and community as a whole or between governments. It can be as formal or informal as anyone desires to make it. Mr. Hilgers noted that during his campaign, Governor Bob McDonnell stated that one of his first objectives was to establish and implement a Compact with Virginia’s Veterans to make Virginia the most veterans-friendly state in the nation.

Mr. Hilgers noted that the requirement for a compact is also set forward in the Code of Virginia, and that, as is stated in Commissioner Galanti’s letter, the compact is to be established in conjunction with the Board of Veterans Services (BVS) and supported by the Joint Leadership Council of Veterans Service Organizations (JLC). Mr. Hilgers stated that the JLC had ratified the compact at its December 19 meeting.

Mr. Hilgers asked the Board to review and ratify the Fiscal Year 2012 (FY12) report on the Compact with Virginia's Veterans.

Chair Jones asked for a **motion** to approve the FY12 report on the Compact with Virginia's Veterans. Mr. Chip Moran made a **motion, seconded** by Delegate Christopher Stolle. The FY12 report on the Compact with Virginia's Veterans was approved by **unanimous consent**.

Commissioner Galanti's letter to the Board, and the FY12 report on the Compact with Virginia's Veterans, as ratified by the Board, is included as Attachment 5.

### **Review of BVS and JLC EO29 Recommendations**

Chair Jones reviewed the BVS and JLC EO29 recommendations (Attachments 6 and 7). Chair Jones reported that Commissioner Galanti had submitted the six BVS recommendations and six JLC recommendations to the Governor for his consideration for the 2013 General Assembly session. Chair Jones noted that the Governor had accepted three of the BVS recommendations and two of the JLC recommendations:

- BVS-1: Institutionalize the Virginia Values Veterans (V3) Program
- BVS-4: Ensure that state veterans cemeteries have the financial resources necessary for essential maintenance reserve and equipment replacement.
- BVS-6: Partner with Veterans Service Organizations (VSOs) to create a resource directory of non-DVS claims agents.
- JLC-5: Clarify the Code of Virginia section regarding In-State Tuition Eligibility for veterans.
- JLC-6: Ensure that the surviving spouse and dependents attending a Virginia public college or university as part of the Virginia Military Survivors and Dependent Education Program.

A summary of the Governor's actions on the BVS and JLC recommendations is included as Attachment 8.

Chair Jones stated that the BVS did an excellent job with these recommendations. Commissioner Galanti stated that the BVS, JLC and DVS have not asked for anything that was unreasonable. Mr. Nicholas asked Mr. Combs if the recommendations that were not accepted this year could be considered again next year. Mr. Combs answered that the Board could review those recommendations not adopted by the Governor, and, if the Board was so inclined, put forward the recommendations next year. Mr. Nicholas suggested that BVS-5 should be reworded to be part of the Board's recommendations for next year. Commissioner Galanti stated that DVS is working with the Attorney General on BVS-5 and that DVS needs a full-time attorney to handle all the different veteran issues arising that need legal consideration.

### **Overview of Governor McDonnell's proposed budget**

Mr. Combs gave a presentation on the Governor McDonnell's proposed budget, referring to items in the Executive Budget Document and the Budget Bills – HB1500 and SB800.

## **Reports**

### **Joint Leadership Council of Veterans Service Organizations**

Mr. Moran, the JLC Vice-Chair, reviewed the JLC report to the Board, which is included as Attachment 9. He stated that the JLC made six Executive Order 29 (EO29) recommendations to the Governor and reviewed the process the JLC follows for developing its recommendations. He noted that not all ideas put forth by JLC members are adopted for submission to the Governor, but that because the JLC carefully considers and researches the initiatives it puts forward, the JLC has a great record of success.

Mr. Moran pointed out that the JLC adopted its 2013 Meeting Schedule and Action Plan on December 19, and noted that the JLC's Annual Report has been submitted electronically to the Commissioner and BVS.

Mr. Moran then announced that on Thursday, January 10, 2013 the JLC will hold its annual Conference at the General Assembly and invited everyone to please attend.

Mr. Moran commented on the marvelous job that Ms. Cindy Norwood does for the JLC and the DVS, noting that she wears many hats and is a great asset for both organizations.

### **Veteran Services Foundation**

Mr. Hilgers, representing the VSF as its Executive Director, delivered the VSF report to the BVS on behalf of VSF Chair David Holt. The report is included as Attachment 10. Mr. Hilgers stated that the VSF has had two meetings since the last BVS meeting and that there are three new VSF board members who are all veterans and represent significant companies. He said that the current economy does not seem to be affecting donations, which are up this year over last. He noted that the VSF had recently received the first donation in support of the V3 program and that the next VSF meeting is Wednesday, March 6.

### **Department of Veterans Services**

Commissioner Galanti thanked the board for the continuing support of DVS. He then reviewed the DVS report to the BVS, which is included as Attachment 11. Commissioner Galanti announced that the BeneVets claims processing system will go live at DVS benefit field offices on January 10. He noted that the BeneVets system is internet-based and will complement the new system being developed by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.

Commissioner Galanti thanked Mr. Combs and the rest of the DVS staff for all they do. He noted that DVS Communications Director Anne Atkins retired last month and that DVS will miss her.

### **Public comment**

Mr. Moran stated that Congress passed the Stolen Valor bill and that Virginia should consider a complementary bill.

Chair Jones thanked Delegate Anderson for his support. Delegate Anderson invited the Board members to the General Assembly on Wednesday, January 9, at 12:00 pm. when the General

Assembly convenes. He noted that the General Assembly has a brisk schedule for the next six weeks and that there are a lot of budget items up for consideration that will directly affect the military and veterans. He added that the General Assembly's Military and Veterans Caucus would meet every Monday during the session.

Delegate Stolle stated that he enjoys serving on the BVS. He also stated that a lot of people do not appreciate veterans and they think being a veteran is just another job. He asked everyone to please take the opportunity when the occasion arises to explain to those that do not understand what being a veteran means and how veterans have served and continue to serve.

### **Prepare for Next Meeting**

Chairman Jones asked that the BVS members review the 2013 Action Plan and to prepare for the board meeting scheduled for Wednesday, May 8.

### **Public Comment**

None was presented.

### **Adjourn**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 12:00 p.m.

**ATTACHMENT 1**  
**Board of Veterans Services**  
**Virginia War Memorial**  
**621 S. Belvidere**  
**Richmond**  
**January 7, 2013**  
**10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.**

**AGENDA**

- I. Opening, Pledge of Allegiance, Roll Call and Quorum Determination, Approval of Agenda, and Introduction of DVS Staff and Guests – *Thad Jones, BVS Chairman* (10:00 – 10:05)
- II. Approval of July 18, 2012 Meeting Minutes – *Thad Jones, BVS Chairman* (10:05 – 10:10)
- III. New Business (10:10 – 10:25)
  - a. Adopt 2013 meeting schedule – *Thad Jones, BVS Chairman* (5 minutes)
  - b. Adopt 2013 Action Plan – *Thad Jones, BVS Chairman* (5 minutes)
  - c. Review Executive Order 29 (EO29) and the role of the BVS – *Thad Jones, BVS Chairman* (5 minutes)
- IV. Presentations (10:26 – 11:15)
  - a. Virginia Values Veterans (V3) Program – *Steven Combs, Director of Policy & Planning and Joe Barto, President, TMG, Inc.* (15 minutes)
  - b. Compact with Virginia's Veterans – *Jack Hilgers, Development Director* (10 minutes)
  - c. Overview of Governor McDonnell's proposed budget – *Steven Combs, Director of Policy & Planning* (15 minutes)
  - d. Review of BVS and JLC EO29 Recommendations – *Thad Jones, BVS Chairman* (10 minutes)
- V. Reports (11:15 – 11:40)
  - a. Joint Leadership Council – *Chip Moran, JLC Vice Chair* (5 minutes)
  - b. Veterans Services Foundation – *David Holt, VSF Chairman* (5 minutes)
  - c. Department of Veterans Services – *Paul Galanti, Commissioner* (15 minutes)
- VI. Public comment (11:45 – 11:55)
- VII. Prepare for Next Meeting – *Thad Jones, Chairman* (11:55 – 12:00)
- VIII. Adjourn (12:00)

Lunch to follow



## **ATTACHMENT 2**

### **Board of Veterans Services 2013 Meeting Schedule**

All meetings shall start at 10:00 a.m. sharp. Meetings will be held in Richmond because it is the least inconvenient for all Board members. The meeting venue will be announced at least a week ahead of the meeting.

- Monday, January 7, 2013
- Wednesday, May 8, 2013
- Wednesday, July 24, 2013
- Wednesday, November 13, 2013

Thad A. Jones  
Chairman  
Board of Veterans Services

## **ATTACHMENT 3**

### **Board of Veterans Services 2013 Action Plan – “Push Forward!”**

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#### **January 7 meeting**

- Discuss 2013 General Assembly session, including Governor McDonnell’s proposed budget, BVS and JLC EO29 recommendations, and other veterans legislation;
- Review Executive Order 29 (EO29) *Serving Virginia’s Veterans* and the role of the BVS.

#### **January – May: “*Research and development*”**

- Board members visit DVS facilities, meet with DVS staff members and veterans;
- Committees hold meetings to review/discuss potential EO29 proposals;
- Committees research initial EO29 proposals and prepare background papers for presentation at May 8 meeting;
- Orientation for new Board members.

#### **May 8 meeting**

- Review 2013 General Assembly Session: budget and legislation;
- Review and discuss initial EO29 proposals;
- DVS Operations Briefings – committee chairs and DVS directors.

#### **May – July: “*Putting Meat on the Bones*”**

- Board members visit DVS facilities, meet with DVS staff members and veterans;
- Committees hold meetings to review/discuss potential EO29 proposals;
- Committees continue research on EO29 proposals and prepare background papers for presentation at July 24 meeting;
- Orientation for new Board members.

#### **July 24 meeting**

- Review, discuss, and approve BVS 2013-14 EO29 recommendations;
- Review, discuss, and adopt JLC 2013-14 EO29 recommendations.

#### **NLT August 15**

- Submit BVS 2013-14 EO29 recommendations to DVS for transmission to Governor.

### **November 13 meeting**

- Adopt 2014 Meeting Schedule;
- Adopt 2014 Action Plan;
- Ratify the Compact with Virginia's Veterans;
- DVS Operations Briefings – committee chairs and DVS directors;
- Review DVS Strategic Plan.

## ATTACHMENT 4



### Virginia Values Veterans (V3)

#### **A Veteran Talent Acquisition and Retention Training and Certification Program**

1. Facts: Virginia Unemployment Rate: 5.6%. Virginia Veteran Unemployment Rate: 10.6%. 575,000 Veterans in Virginia (does not include transitioning National Guard and Reservists). The unemployment rate for veterans aged 20 to 24 has averaged 30% in 2012. FY12 DOD paid ~\$1 Billion in Unemployment Benefits. FY15 Budget: \$3 Billion
2. V3 is all about re-capitalizing the Virginia Workforce and energizing Virginia's economy. It is an Economic Development initiative.
3. DVS is kick starting the V3 Training and Certification Process by teaching companies how to hire Vets and then tracking the business impact of re-capitalizing the workforce with Vets to give others the courage to hire and retain Vets. (Teaching companies how to fish not fishing for companies.)
4. V3's primary focus is on Virginia's companies under 1,000 which represent collectively the overwhelming majority of the total hiring demand and connecting them with the primary hiring and retention requirement—Initial Entry Teammates.
5. V3's 1<sup>st</sup> year goal is by the 1st Annual V3 Summit on June 12, 2013 to have proven the concept by training and certifying at least 50 companies.

### Virginia Vet Unemployment Math

- 300,000 Companies under 1,000
- 575,000 Working Eligible Vets @ 12% Unemployment
  - **75,000** Unemployed Vets
  - 500,000 Employed Vets
- 300,000 Companies & 500,000 Working Vets
  - 1+ Vets/Company **Vets Helping Vets!**
- If 1 out of 3 **Companies** hired and retained 1 Vet...  
**VICTORY!**

Progress to Date:

**Since June 2012, the V3 Initiative has held 4 Conferences resulting in...**

**Total Number of Trained Virginia Employers = 336**

**Total Number of V3 Bronze Certified Employers = 38**

**Total Number of Jobs Pledged to Veteran Hires = 3,038**

**Total Number of Actual Veterans Hired = 654**

**1<sup>st</sup> V3 Certified Class**

- Huntington Ingalls Industry
- Lockheed Martin
- ManTech Incorporation
- Top Guard Security
- Chandler Concrete
- Ball Metal – Williamsburg
- Hampton Sheriff's Office
- MicroAire
- TMG, Inc.
- Entry Guard Systems

**3<sup>rd</sup> V3 Certified Class**

- VCU Police Department
- Shine Systems & Technologies
- SAIC
- Stafford County Sheriff
- EMS, Inc.
- ITA International
- Harris Power & Equipment
- McGuireWoods
- Gyrus Systems
- Town of Culpeper
- Rapp RCJA
- Dominion Resources
- Hampton Roads Jail
- Carolina Furniture

**2<sup>nd</sup> V3 Certified Class**

- City of Norfolk
- Bon Secours
- ECPI University
- LightGrid, LLC
- Data Systems & Technologies
- Allied Associates
- Digital Sandbox
- Winning the Training Game

**4<sup>th</sup> V3 Certified Class**

- ATA, LLC
- MSTI
- Division of Capitol Police
- Oceaneering
- Brickman Group
- Apogee Solutions
- United Way National Capitol Area
- BOSH Global Services
- LEAP
- Echo360

January 7, 2013

POC: Joe Barto, Program Manager,  
Virginia Values Vets

[jbarto@tmgva.com](mailto:jbarto@tmgva.com)

757-218-8444

## ATTACHMENT 5



# COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

## *Department of Veterans Services*

Paul E. Galanti  
Commissioner

Telephone: (804) 786-0286  
Fax: (804) 786-0302

December 21, 2012

### MEMORANDUM

FOR: Members, Board of Veterans Services (BVS)

FROM: Commissioner Paul E. Galanti

SUBJ: Compact with Virginia's Veterans

Section 2.2-2004 of the Code of Virginia requires that I establish a Compact with Virginia's Veterans and requires that I annually report the progress of veterans services established in the compact. The Code further states that the compact shall be established in conjunction with the Board of Veterans Services (BVS) and supported by the Joint Leadership Council of Veterans Service Organizations (JLC).

Attached you will find the annual report setting forth: (1) the long-range goals in support of the compact; (2) progress that has been made in FY12; and (3) FY13 BVS and JLC objectives in support of the compact. I ask that you review it before the BVS meeting on January 7, 2013.

The BVS and JLC have been instrumental in developing the issues needed to annually update the compact. The ratification of the attached report is an important step in the establishment and implementation process.

I hope it will be the pleasure of the BVS members to ratify the report at the BVS meeting on January 7, 2013.

# **Compact with Virginia's Veterans**

## **Department of Veterans Services**

### **Fiscal Year 2012 Report**

#### **December 1, 2012**

*The Department of Veterans Services overarching goal is to make Virginia the most veteran-friendly state in the Nation.*

Virginia's veterans have the non-partisan support of both Governor McDonnell and the General Assembly. The *Code of Virginia* requires the Commissioner of the Department of Veterans Services (DVS), in conjunction with the Board of Veterans Services (BVS) and the Joint Leadership Council (JLC) of Veterans Service Organizations, to establish and implement a Compact with Virginia's Veterans.

Governor McDonnell's Executive Order 29 provides the framework for the compact between the Government of the Commonwealth and its veterans. This framework, which supports veterans and their families, is exercised through: (1) the BVS for individual veterans services; (2) the JLC for veterans service organizations; and (3) meetings and daily individual contact responding to each veteran's needs. The Executive Order provides directives for serving Virginia's veterans in the areas of education, health care, social services including homelessness, employment, transportation, claims processing, and enabling legislation when required.

Executive Order 29's framework and directives create a roadmap for DVS and the agency's partners to follow in order to fulfill the promise to make the Commonwealth the most veteran-friendly state in the Nation.

#### **LONG-RANGE GOALS IN SUPPORT OF THE COMPACT**

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*The following long-range goals were established by the BVS and JLC, representing Virginia's veterans and their families, in conjunction with DVS:*

- Ensure all eligible veterans receive disability benefits in a timely manner.
- Provide veterans care centers for rehabilitation and domiciliary and long-term care.
- Ensure veterans have access to a network of community-based services designed to help veterans and their families overcome the challenges of stress-related and traumatic brain injuries and rehabilitative needs that result from military service.
- Reduce the number of homeless veterans.

- Afford Virginia's veterans and their spouses and eligible dependents a final resting place at state veterans cemeteries that meet national shrine standards.
- Ensure veterans and their dependents have approved educational programs through which they may receive their educational benefits.
- In conjunction with other state agencies, provide a veteran acquisition and retention employment training and certification program to reduce veterans unemployment.
- Enshrine patriotic Virginians who rendered faithful service and sacrifice in the cause of freedom and liberty for the Commonwealth and the nation in time of war and honor all of Virginia's veterans by preserving their history, educating the public, and inspiring patriotism in all Virginians.
- Coordinate with other state agencies to afford Virginia's veterans business, employment, transportation, and other appropriate opportunities through technology advances, workforce development, outreach, quality of life enhancement, and other services for veterans and their families.

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## **FY12 OBJECTIVES IN SUPPORT OF THE COMPACT**

*The following objectives were established for FY12 by the BVS and JLC in conjunction with DVS:*

**Priority #1:** Provide a simple, ready means of identification of veterans status for Virginia's veterans by creating a Virginia Veterans Identification Card.

*Status: The Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles agreed to establish Veterans Identification Cards as part of their identification card program and the first cards were issued on Memorial Day, 2012.*

**Priority #2:** Facilitate the honorable burial of the unclaimed cremated remains (cremains) of Virginia veterans in a state veterans cemetery by requiring funeral homes to provide the names of unclaimed cremains to DVS. DVS will screen the names to determine eligibility for burial in a state veterans cemetery.

*Status: Governor McDonnell and the 2012 General Assembly approved legislation to facilitate the honorable burial of unclaimed veterans cremains.*

**Priority #3:** Improve delivery of benefit services to Virginia veterans by changing the ratio of DVS claims agents to veterans to one claims agent for every 23,000 veterans.

*Status: Governor McDonnell and the 2012 General Assembly approved the change in ratio and added two claims agent positions and their funding.*



## **GOVERNOR McDONNELL'S BUDGET AND LEGISLATIVE INITIATIVES – FY12**

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*Governor McDonnell's budget and legislative initiatives for the 2012 General Assembly supported the implementation of the Compact with Virginia's veterans.*

*Governor McDonnell's budget initiatives for the 2012 General Assembly included:*

- \$128,068 in General Funds to fill two vacant unfunded positions permitting DVS to partner with the Department of Medical Assistance Services to identify veterans receiving Medicaid benefits. DVS is to work with these veterans to determine if they are eligible for disability and compensation benefits and for medical care through the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.
- \$127,068 in General Funds and two positions for additional DVS claims agents to help improve services by adding the capability to increase the number of benefits claims filed commensurate with the increase in the ratio of claims agents to veterans provided by legislation.
- \$197,018 in General Funds and positions for two Homeless Veterans Coordinators for DVS to help build local coalitions and continuums of care to provide veterans access to available resources, including housing vouchers, employment support, and social services. This initiative supported the recommendations of the Joint Leadership Council of Veterans Service Organizations (JLC).
- Increases DVS Educational Services federally funded staffing by two positions to perform new federal compliance surveys under the Post-9/11 GI Bill Improvement Act.
- \$2,718,753 in Nongeneral Funds and 51 positions to staff and operate the 40-bed addition to the DVS Sitter and Barfoot Veterans Care Center projected to be completed by FY14.
- Transfers one DVS position between service areas to the Virginia Wounded Warrior Program to oversee the continued implementation of an AmeriCorps grant that assists Virginia service members, veterans, Guardsmen, Reservists, and their families in accessing mental health and rehabilitative care.

*Other Legislative initiative Governor McDonnell endorsed for the 2012 General Assembly included:*

- Requiring DMV to consider, to the extent not inconsistent with federal law, applicants' military training and experience in assessing their eligibility to receive a Virginia commercial driver's license.
- Requiring the governing boards of each public institution of higher education, in accordance with guidelines developed by the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia, to implement policies that award academic credit to students for educational experience gained from military service.

- Extending the grace period for driver's license expiration from 90 to 180 days after the return from service outside the United States of active duty military personnel, a member of the diplomatic service, or a civilian employee of the U.S. government or a federal agency or contractor.
- Extending the grace period for replacement of plates or decals and for vehicle registration accompanying a member of the armed services after return from service outside the United States of active duty military personnel, a member of the diplomatic service, or a civilian employee of the U.S. government or a federal agency or contractor.

*Implementation of Real Property Tax Exemptions for Disabled Veterans included:*

- Requiring the Commissioner of the Department of Veterans Services to promulgate rules and regulations for the administration and implementation of the real property tax exemption for disabled veterans.
- Providing that the real property tax exemption for disabled veterans for property acquired after January 1, 2011, begins on the date of acquisition and that the previous owner of the property is entitled to a pro rata refund of any taxes paid for any period of the tax year coming after the date of acquisition. The bill also provides that a veteran or spouse otherwise qualified for the exemption does not lose the exemption solely because of extended stays at hospitals, nursing homes, or other convalescent facilities as long as the real property is not leased to another person.
- Providing that the real property tax exemption for veterans whose disability rating occurs after January 1, 2011, begins on the date of the rating.
- Providing that the real property tax exemption for a veteran applies when the property is held in certain trusts, including for surviving spouses.

## **FY13 OBJECTIVES IN SUPPORT OF THE COMPACT**

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### **JLC Priorities**

**JLC Priority #1:** Provide for the electronic return of absentee ballot voted by overseas voters.

**JLC Priority #2:** Set aside land for the future Northern Virginia Veterans Care Center on the site of the state-owned Northern Virginia Training Center. The training center is scheduled to close in 2015.

**JLC Priority #3:** Provide a Sales and Use Tax Exemption for Veterans Service Organizations.

**JLC Priority #4:** Provide business incentives (tax credit) for employing veterans to fill new

jobs.

**JLC Priority #5:** Clarify Code of Virginia section regarding In-State Tuition Eligibility for veterans.

**JLC Priority #6:** Ensure that the surviving spouses and dependents attending a Virginia public college or university as part of the Virginia Military Survivors and Dependents Education Program have the financial resources necessary to pursue their education (stipend for room, board, books, and supplies).

### ***BVS Priorities***

**BVS Priority #1:** Institutionalize Virginia Value Vets (V3) initiative through a change to the Code of Virginia or an Executive Order.

**BVS Priority #2:** Appropriate funding for DVS Tele-Vet system & improved use of social media: (1) \$150,000 in FY14 (General Fund – one time) to develop and deploy a “Tele-Vet” system to reach Virginia veterans who do not own or have ready access to a computer; (2) \$25,000 (General Fund) per fiscal year in FY15 and beyond for system operation; and (3) \$20,000 (General Fund) annually for a wage employee to better engage Virginia veterans through social media, such as Facebook, LinkedIn, YouTube and podcasts.

**BVS Priority #3:** Increase the DVS budget by \$30,000 (General Fund) per year to allow 10 DVS claims agents to attend the American Legion training and 10 agents to attend the VFW training.

**BVS Priority #4:** (1) Authorize use of federal funds for the Nongeneral Fund portion of the maintenance reserve and equipment replacement requirements. (2) Keep burial vault charges for veterans and spouses and the burial fee for spouses in place, subject to a bi-annual review by the BVS Cemeteries Committee.

**BVS Priority #5:** Assign a Senior Assistant Attorney General to the Department of Veterans Services on a full-time basis.

**BVS Priority #6:** DVS partner with veterans service organizations (VSOs) to create a resource directory of non-DVS claims agents and share this information with members of the General Assembly.

**ATTACHMENT 6**  
**Board of Veterans Services**

**Summary of 2012-2013 Executive Order 29 (EO29) Recommendations –  
Adopted July 18, 2012**

1. Institutionalize the Virginia Values Veterans (V3) Program through a change to the Code of Virginia or an Executive Order.
2. Enhance communications and outreach to Virginia veterans by:
  - a. Appropriating \$150,000 in FY14 (GF – one time) to develop and deploy a “Tele-Vet” system to reach Virginia veterans who do not own or have ready access to a computer. Appropriate \$25,000 (GF) per fiscal year in FY15 and beyond for system operation;
  - b. Appropriate \$20,000 (GF) annually for a wage employee to better engage Virginia veterans through social media, such as Facebook, LinkedIn, YouTube and podcasts.
3. Improve training of DVS claims agents by appropriating \$30,000 (GF) per fiscal year so that 10 claims agents per year may attend national training offered by the American Legion and 10 agents per year may attend national training offered by the VFW. A mixture of new and experienced agents would be sent to the training.
4. Ensure that state veterans cemeteries have the financial resources necessary for essential maintenance reserve and equipment replacement requirements by:
  - a. Utilizing the funds generated through the increase in the federal burial reimbursement rate to fund the NGF portion of the maintenance reserve and equipment replacement requirements;
  - b. Maintaining the current charges for burial vaults for veterans and spouses and the burial fee for spouses, subject to a bi-annual review by the Board of Veterans Services.
5. Work with the Attorney General to have a Senior Assistant Attorney General assigned to DVS on a full-time basis.
6. Partner with Veterans Service Organizations (VSOs) to create a resource directory of non-DVS claims agents, then share this information with members of the General Assembly.

## **ATTACHMENT 7**

### **JOINT LEADERSHIP COUNCIL OF VETERANS SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS Summary of 2012-2013 Executive Order 29 (EO29) Recommendations Adopted July 11, 2012**

1. Provide for the electronic return of absentee ballots by overseas voters.
2. Set aside land for the future Northern Virginia Veterans Care Center on the site of the state-owned Northern Virginia Training Center. The training center is scheduled to close in 2015.
3. Provide a Sales and Use Tax Exemption for Veterans Service Organizations.
4. Create business incentives for employers for hiring veterans.
5. Clarify the Code of Virginia section regarding In-State Tuition Eligibility for veterans.
6. Ensure that the surviving spouses and dependents attending a Virginia public college or university as part of the Virginia Military Survivors and Dependents Education Program have the financial resources necessary to pursue their education by increasing the stipend for room, board, books, and supplies to \$2,000 per year and appropriating an additional \$600,000 (GF) for the program.

## **ATTACHMENT 8**

### **Board of Veterans Services and Joint Leadership Council of Veterans Service Organizations Recommendations Accepted by the Governor for 2013**

1. BVS-1: Continue the momentum of the Virginia Values Veterans (V3) Program for veterans employment. **(\$150,000 in General Funds included in the Governor's proposed budget.)**
2. BVS-4: Ensure that state veterans cemeteries have the financial resources necessary for essential maintenance reserve and equipment replacement requirements by:
  - a. Utilizing the funds generated through the increase in the federal burial reimbursement rate to fund the NGF portion of the maintenance reserve and equipment replacement requirements. **(Governor's proposed budget reduces General Funds for equipment replacement by \$80,000. This is offset by an increase in Nongeneral Funds for equipment replacement of \$160,000 and an increase of Nongeneral Funds for maintenance reserve of \$80,000.)**
  - b. Maintaining the current charges for burial vaults for veterans and spouses and the burial fee for spouses, subject to a bi-annual review by the Board of Veterans Services. **(Being accomplished with no action required by the Governor.)**
3. BVS-6: Partner with Veterans Service Organizations (VSOs) to create a resource directory of non-DVS claims agents, then share this information with members of the General Assembly. **(To be done by DVS in-house.)**
4. JLC-5: Clarify the Code of Virginia section regarding In-State Tuition Eligibility for veterans to remove the element of intent to establish domicile in Virginia. **(Legislation to be introduced.)**
5. JLC-6: Ensure that the surviving spouses and dependents attending a Virginia public college or university as part of the Virginia Military Survivors and Dependents Education Program have the financial resources necessary to pursue their education. **(\$600,000 General Fund increase included in the Governor's proposed budget. No increase in the per-award cap at this time, but will be an issue for future consideration.)**

The Governor and his staff carefully considered the other BVS and JLC recommendations. For various reasons including fiscal constraints (BVS-2, 3, and 5; and JLC-3 and 4), technological issues (JLC-1), and legal considerations (JLC-2), they were deferred for consideration in the future.

As of January 3, 2013

## **ATTACHMENT 9**

### **JOINT LEADERSHIP COUNCIL OF VETERANS SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS**

#### **Report to Board of Veterans Services January 7, 2013**

The Joint Leadership Council of Veterans Service Organizations (the JLC) met on December 19. A number of reports were received and presentations made. In addition, the JLC:

- Voted to endorse and support the Executive Order 29 (EO29) recommendations submitted by the Board of Veterans Services (BVS) to Governor McDonnell;
- Voted to ratify the Department of Veterans Services (DVS) Fiscal Year 2012 (FY12) report on the Compact with Virginia's Veterans;
- Adopted the 2013 meeting schedule, as follows:
  - Thursday, January 10: JLC Conference at the General Assembly
  - Wednesday, March 20
  - Wednesday, May 22
  - Wednesday, July 17
  - Wednesday, October 16
  - Wednesday, December 18
- Adopted the JLC 2013 Action Plan (attached);
- Confirmed the appointment of JLC officers for 2012-2013;
- Prepared for the JLC Conference at the General Assembly on Thursday, January 10. The current schedule is attached. BVS members are invited to attend, but are requested to notify Jack Hilgers prior to the conference to facilitate planning.

The JLC Chairman's FY12 Annual Report was sent electronically to the BVS on December 6.

We look forward to continuing our partnership with the BVS in support of Virginia's veterans in 2013.

Respectfully submitted,

Donald Kaiserman  
Chairman

## **Attachment to JLC Report to the BVS**

### **JLC 2013 Action Plan**

#### **January 10 Conference at the General Assembly**

- Advocate for 2012-2013 JLC Initiatives
- Promote role of JLC, DVS, etc.

#### **Before March 20 meeting**

- New JLC member orientation

#### **March 20 meeting**

- 2013 General Assembly review
- Look ahead to 2014 General Assembly: initial review and discussion of potential 2013-2014 JLC Initiatives
- Report of the Constitution and By-Laws Review Committee (annual review)
- Review of past JLC initiatives and current status

#### **NLT May 1**

- JLC members submit potential 2013-2014 JLC Initiatives for discussion at May 22 meeting. NOTE: Must be in JLC Position Paper format

#### **NLT May 8**

- Potential 2013-2014 JLC Initiatives distributed to JLC members for review
- JLC members share potential 2012-2013 JLC Initiatives with their VSO leadership and others in their VSO to solicit feedback, concerns, additional ideas, etc.

#### **May 22 meeting**

- Continued review and discussion of potential 2013-2014 JLC Initiatives
- Appoint Nominating Committee

#### **NLT June 26**

- JLC members submit potential 2013-2014 JLC Initiatives for discussion at July 17 meeting. NOTE: Must be in JLC Position Paper format

#### **NLT July 3**

- Potential initiatives distributed to JLC members for review
- JLC members share potential 2013-2014 JLC Initiatives with their VSO leadership and others in their VSO to solicit feedback, concerns, additional ideas, etc.

#### **July 17 meeting**

- Review and discuss all proposed 2013-2014 JLC Initiatives
- Adopt and prioritize 2013-2014 JLC Initiatives
- Appoint JLC sponsors
- Elect Chair and Vice Chair



#### NLT August 15

- JLC Chair appoints JLC Appointed Officers (who will serve in an acting capacity until approved by the Council)
- Legislative Officer forms Legislative Operations Committee
- Legislative Operations Committee meets to finalize Position Papers and FAQ Sheets
- Distribute Position Papers and FAQ Sheets to JLC and post on JLC website
- Submit Executive Order 29 (EO29) recommendations to Governor McDonnell through DVS

#### September/October

- Chair and Legislative Officer meet with Governor

#### October 16 meeting

- Report on the meeting with the Governor
- Legislative Operations Committee recommends General Assembly Patrons for the JLC to recommend to the Governor
- Prepare for meetings with General Assembly members
- Approve JLC Appointed Officers for 2013-2014

#### October/November/December

- Submit recommended patrons to Governor McDonnell through DVS
- Meet with General Assembly members
- Hold legislative forums

#### December 18 meeting

- Review Governor's Proposed Budget
- Report on General Assembly Patrons
- Plan for 2014 Conference at the General Assembly
- Adopt 2014 meeting schedule
- Adopt 2014 Action Plan

## **Attachment to JLC Report to the BVS**

### **JOINT LEADERSHIP COUNCIL OF VETERANS SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY CONFERENCE SCHEDULE**

#### **DRAFT**

10 January 2013

<u>Time</u>	<u>Event</u>
0800	Arrival/Check In/Coffee, Tea, Muffins, Juice – 5 East Conference Room, General Assembly Bldg (GAB); Co-Patron Sheets Available
0815	Visit General Assembly Members/Aides in their offices
0900	Start Conference and note those present – JLC Chair
0905	Welcome by General Assembly Sponsors – Senators Wagner and Puller, Delegates BaCote and Anderson for 5 minutes each
0915	Remarks by Lt.Gov. Bolling – Introduced by Commissioner Galanti
0925	Continue Welcoming Remarks by General Assembly Sponsors
0940	Remarks by House Speaker, W. Howell – Introduced by Delegate Anderson
0950	Remarks by Senator Colgan and Delegate Dudenhefer (5 minutes each) –Intro by JLC Chair
1000	Remarks by House Majority Leader K. Cox – Introduced by JLC Chair
1005	Remarks by House Minority Leader Delegate David Toscano – Introduced by JLC Chair
1010	Remarks by Senate Presiden Pro-Tem Stosch – Introduced by Commissioner Galanti
1020	Remarks by Attorney General Cuccinelli – Introduced by Commissioner Galanti
1035	Visit General Assembly Members/Aides in their offices
1115	Free Time or Visit the Capitol and Move to View Session
1130-1220	View General Assembly Session-Group split and attendees recognized during the “Morning Hour” by Senator Puller and Delegate Anderson in their respective houses
1230	Lunch–On Own–Capitol or General Assembly Cafeteria
1315	Reconvene in House Room 3, Capitol Bldg Review of Morning Activities–Open Forum – JLC Chair and Commissioner Galanti
1345	Remarks by MG Long, Department of Military Affairs – Introduced by Commissioner Galanti
1400	Remarks by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs and Homeland Security The Honorable Terrie Suit – Introduced by Commissioner Galanti
1420	Remarks by Senators Northam and Reeves and Delegates Lingamfelter and Stolle (5 minutes

each) – Introduced by Commissioner Galanti

1440 Remarks by Governor McDonnell–Introduced by Secretary Suit

1500 Conclusion of Conference–JLC Chair

## **ATTACHMENT 10**

### **VETERANS SERVICES FOUNDATION REPORT TO Board of Veterans Services January 7, 2013**

The Veterans Services Foundation (VSF) Board of Trustees has held two meetings since last JLC meeting. They were on August 1 and November 7, 2012. The Development and Finance Committees met before each Board meeting. The following events occurred and actions taken at the Board meetings.

- (1) Received Board of Veterans Services Chairman's, Joint Leadership Council of Veterans Service Organizations (JLC) Chairman's, the Department of Veterans Services (DVS) Commissioner's, and VSF Committee Reports and Virginia Wounded Warrior Program (VWWP) Updates;
- (2) Reviewed Foundation fundraising and fundraising events conducted during FY12 and FY13;
- (3) Approved VSF FY12 Final Quarter Financial Report and the FY13 First Quarter Report;
- (4) Approved VSF-DVS FY13 Budget;
- (5) Approved Budget modifications moving the Homeless Fund under VWWP and establishing a fund for the DVS V3 Program;
- (6) Approved Committee Appointments;
- (7) Approved a VSF logo;
- (8) Approved Board meeting dates of March 6, May 1, August 7, and November 6, 2013; and

The three new Governor's appointments have been made since the last report to the JLC. They are Brad Antle, who was a Navy surface warfare officer and now a reservist and is President and CEO of Salient Solutions. James Schenck is a West Point graduate and a former Army aviator who is President of the PenFed Realty and Title Companies. The most recent is Frank Finelli, a retired Army Lieutenant Colonel and is a Managing Director in the Carlyle Group, a global asset management firm.

As of 31 December, the Foundation has raised just over \$285,000, of which over \$275,000 is for VWWP, during FY13. The total amount includes the first donation for the Virginia Values Veterans (V3) Program for \$5,000 from the Science Applications International Corporation (SAIC). Additionally, there are a host of future events being scheduled. Total fundraising is more than two and a half times the level of last year at this time. Again, the Foundation extends its sincere congratulations to the outstanding outreach of all DVS activities to realize this significant fundraising level. It could not have been accomplished without the dedication of all DVS personnel.

The next Board meeting is scheduled for March 6, 2013, but may be changed if the General Assembly session goes beyond 23 February. Items for the next meeting may include: (1) approval of the 2nd Quarter FY13 Fund Statement; (2) approval of FY13 VSF-DVS Budget adjustments; (3) review VSF FY13 fundraising program; (4) election of a nominating committee for FY14 officers.

Respectfully submitted,  
David Holt  
VSF Chairman

**ATTACHMENT 11**  
**DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS SERVICES**  
**REPORT TO**  
**BOARD OF VETERANS SERVICES**  
**January 7, 2013**

**Highlights of DVS operations:**

- **Benefit Services:** *assists Virginia's veterans and their dependents in obtaining benefits to which they are entitled under federal, state, and local laws*
  - DVS filed 27,279 disability compensation claims. The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) adjudicated 15,967 claims submitted by DVS, and approved 12,362, or approximately 77 percent. Virginia veterans received nearly \$60 million in retroactive claim awards during FY12.
  - Legislation passed by the 2012 General Assembly reduced the ratio of claims agents to veterans from 1:26,212 to 1:23,000 – taking DVS from 32 to 36 claims agents. New claims have been hired in Danville, Hampton, Richmond, and Roanoke. The new agent in Richmond is currently working at the McGuire VA Medical Center, but will soon move to a new office in Henrico County.
  - A contract was signed in October with BeneVets, Inc. to develop and deploy the BeneVets system at DVS field offices, replacing the current claims processing system known as RVD. DVS claims agents are currently being trained on operation of the new system. Parallel to this training, data is being securely transferred from RVD to BeneVets. DVS expects to begin using the new system for claims development and submission in January. DVS is also working with the VA on the VA's "Digits to Digits (D2D)" initiative to facilitate the future electronic submission of claims to the VA.
  - DVS is working with the Department of Medical Assistance Services (DMAS) and Department of Social Services (DSS) regarding the initiative to improve access to USDVA compensation/pension and medical benefits for Virginia veterans by identifying veterans receiving Medicaid benefits and helping those who wish to do so apply for USDVA benefits and/or health care.
- **Veterans Education and Training:** *approves educational programs so veterans and their dependents may receive their educational benefits*
  - The DVS State Approving Agency for Veterans Education and Training (SAA) certified that more than 1,000 educational programs met G.I. Bill requirements in Federal Fiscal Year 2011 (FFY11). Over 51,000 Virginia veterans and dependents used G.I. Bill benefits in FFY11 – #4 in the nation – and received more than \$562M G.I. Bill benefits.
  - SAA has assumed the school audit mission from the VA. This has significantly increased the SAA workload, but SAA is handling the new responsibility well thanks to a re-alignment of staff assignments and the hiring of new staff.
- **Virginia Veterans Care Centers:** *provide long-term care and short-term rehabilitation to Virginia's veterans*

- DVS provided 134,143 patient days of care in FY12 at the Sitter & Barfoot Veterans Care Center in Richmond and the Virginia Veterans Care Center in Roanoke.
  - Design work is complete on the 40-bed addition to the Sitter & Barfoot Veterans Care Center. The state has approved the design. Construction will begin after the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (USDVA) releases the funding.
  - A study is underway to evaluate four potential sites for the Hampton Roads Veterans Care Center. The study should be completed in February.
  - Several renovation projects were completed at Virginia Veterans Care Center, including parking lot expansion and road work. The VVCC is pursuing grant funding for several energy savings projects.
- **Virginia Veterans Cemeteries:** *Virginia's veterans cemeteries are shrines commemorating the personal sacrifice of those who served and those who stand ready to defend our freedom*
    - Virginia's three state veterans cemeteries performed 1,222 burials in FY12.
    - Federal grant funding has been awarded to install pre-placed outer burial containers at the Virginia Veterans Cemetery (Amelia) and the Albert G. Horton, Jr. Memorial Veterans Cemetery (Suffolk). Construction began December 17 in Amelia and will begin in January in Suffolk. DVS will be able to provide the outer burial containers at no charge to most veterans and their families – a significant benefit that brings the Virginia state veterans cemeteries in line with the benefits offered at national cemeteries.
    - A large road repair and paving project is nearing completion at the Virginia Veterans Cemetery (Amelia). Only minor finishing work remains.
    - The road sign replacement/upgrade projects at all three cemeteries are complete. However, one sign to the Suffolk cemetery was knocked over by a hit and run driver and will be replaced soon.
- **Virginia War Memorial:** *the Commonwealth of Virginia's monument to honor the memory of Virginia's men and women who demonstrated a willingness to serve and fight to defend our way of life from World War II to the present; and through its Education Center to serves as the Center of Excellence for the Commonwealth in education of Virginian's experience of war from the birth of our nation to the present*
    - The Virginia War Memorial became part of the DVS on July 1.
    - The number of annual visitors to the Virginia War Memorial has risen significantly in the past two years - from 19,000 in 2010 to 50,000 in 2012 - and is expected to continue to grow.
    - The Memorial's WWII Staff Car has been a smashing success, participating in Christmas parades/ceremonies in Richmond, Chesterfield, and Hanover, and at the Executive Mansion for the Capitol Tree Lighting.
- **Virginia Wounded Warrior Program:** *provides behavioral health, rehabilitation services, and support to veterans, National Guard members, reservists, and their family members*

- The DVS Virginia Wounded Warrior Program served 5,283 veterans and their families in FY12.
- In FY12, 27 trainings were conducted for criminal justice system professionals and other professionals across the state. Approximately 479 individuals participated in the trainings. However, this number is likely underreported, as some individuals did not pre-register or sign-in.
- An interagency team led by VWWP attended the SAMHSA Policy Academy in Alexandria September 5-7. VWWP was recognized as being a leader in supporting to military service members, veterans and their families.
- ***DVS HQ: Commissioner, Deputy Commissioner, agency-wide projects, and special initiatives***
  - The Virginia Values Veterans (V3) Program – launched as a pilot project in June – is making huge strides. The focus of the V3 program is helping employers refocus their efforts to hire, train, and retain veterans. To date, four training conferences have been held and DVS has received commitments from Virginia employers to hire over 3,000 veterans.
  - The Virginia Veterans ID Card has been a great success! As of November 1, 2012, more than 24,000 cards had been issued.

## **Upcoming meetings and events**

- **Board of Veterans Services meeting:** January 7, 2013, 10 a.m., Virginia War Memorial, 621 S. Belvidere, Richmond.
- **Virginia War Memorial Board meeting:** January 8, 2013, 12 p.m., 621 S. Belvidere, Richmond.
- **Joint Leadership Council of Veterans Service Organizations Conference at the General Assembly:** January 10, 8 a.m. – 3 p.m., General Assembly Building (morning) and Capitol (afternoon).
- **Sitter & Barfoot Veterans Care Center Fifth Anniversary Celebration:** January 25, 2013, 1 p.m. Sitter & Barfoot Veterans Care Center, 1601 Broad Rock Blvd, Richmond.
- **Veterans Services Foundation meeting:** March 6, 2013, 10 a.m., Virginia War Memorial, 621 S. Belvidere, Richmond.

I cannot thank the Board members enough for their continued support of Virginia veterans and the Department of Veterans Services.

Respectfully submitted,

Paul E. Galanti  
Commissioner